

Curbing fake and false science news vital

Press Release

Fake and false science news making way into the mainstream media and social media is a cause of serious concern. The growing menace and the ways and means to address were discussed and debated strongly at the 18th Indian Science Communication Congress (ISCC-2018) on the theme “200 Years of Science Journalism in India”. The two days science communication congress was organised by CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) on 21-22 December 2018.

Tracing the history of science journalism and science communication in the country, Prof. Manoj Kumar Patraiyya, Director, CSIR-NISCAIR said that science journalism in the country has come a long way since the first monthly magazine *Digdarshan* came into being in 1818. The magazine published science articles in English, Hindi and Bengali.

Delivering the keynote addresses, Dr. Arvind Mishra, Secretary, Indian Science Fiction Writers’ Association said that there should be more science communication in Indian languages. He also touched upon the need for ‘barefoot’ science communication that should focus on science communication at the grassroot and rural levels.

Dr. R K Bhandari, the guest of honour and Chairman, Forum on Disaster Mitigation, Indian National Academy of Engineering spoke about documenting disasters and communicating the same. He said that we should not lose any opportunity to learn from disasters and should work on using the learnings to limit or prevent future disasters.

A new book, “Malpa Landslide Disaster” published by CSIR-NISCAIR was released on the occasion.

Prof. V L Dharurkar, Vice Chancellor, Tripura Central University was the chief guest of the inaugural function and Dr. Narendra K Sehgal, UNESCO-Kalinga Prize Winner for Science Popularization chaired the inaugural function.

Among 150 science communicators, researchers, scientists, science enthusiasts and students participated in the event.